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TECH CENTER 1500/2301

Assistant Commissioner for Patents  
Washington DC 20231

Re: Utility Patent Application  
Entitled: Methods and Compositions for Identifying Nucleic Acid Molecules  
Using Nucleolytic Activities and Hybridization  
Appl. No.: 09/648,081  
Filed: August 25, 2000  
Inventor: Wang et al.  
Our Ref.: ART-00101.P.1

Sir:

The following documents are forwarded herewith for appropriate action by the United States Patent and Trademark Office:

1. Transmittal Letter (in duplicate);
2. Assertion of Small Entity Status - Nonprofit Organization; and
3. One Return Post Card.

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the filing date and unofficial application number and returned as soon as possible.

Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to **Deposit Account 501321** in the name of **David R. Preston & Associates** having **Customer No.: 24232**.

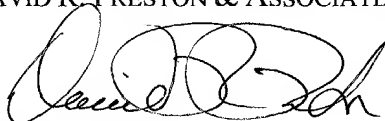
The following attorney is the attorney of record for prosecuting this application and transacting all business in the USPTO connected therewith:

David R. Preston, Esquire  
Registration No. 38,710

Please send all correspondence and direct all telephone calls to:

David R. Preston  
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Respectfully Submitted,  
DAVID R. PRESTON & ASSOCIATES

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'David R. Preston', written in dark ink.

David R. Preston  
Attorney for Applicant  
Registration No. 38,710

**TRANSMITTAL FORM**to be used for all correspondence after  
initial filing)

Application Number:	09/648,081
Filing Date:	August 25, 2000
First Named Inventor:	Wang
Group Art Unit:	To be determined
Examiner:	To be determined
Attorney Docket Number:	ART-00101.P.1

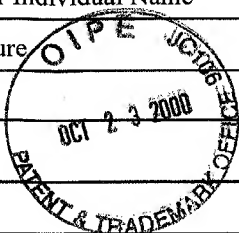
Total Pages in This  
Submission:

2

**ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)**

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Assignment Papers (for an Application)	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group	
<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences	
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment / Response	<input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (Appeal, Notice, Brief, Reply Brief)	
<input type="checkbox"/> After Final	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) and Accompanying Petition	<input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information	
<input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits / Declarations(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter	
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Requests	<input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation, Change of Correspondence Address	[X] Additional Inclosures, identified below:  Postcard	
<input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer		
<input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	[X] Small Entity Statement		
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund		
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts / Incomplete Application	Remarks:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts under 37 C.F.R. 1.52 or 1.53			

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT	
Firm or Individual Name	David R. Preston
Signature	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>
Date	October 17, 2000



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING			
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231 on this date.			Date: 10/17/00
Typed or printed name:	David R. Preston		
Signature	<i>[Handwritten Signature]</i>	Date:	10/17/00